



**Discovering our Nation's History**

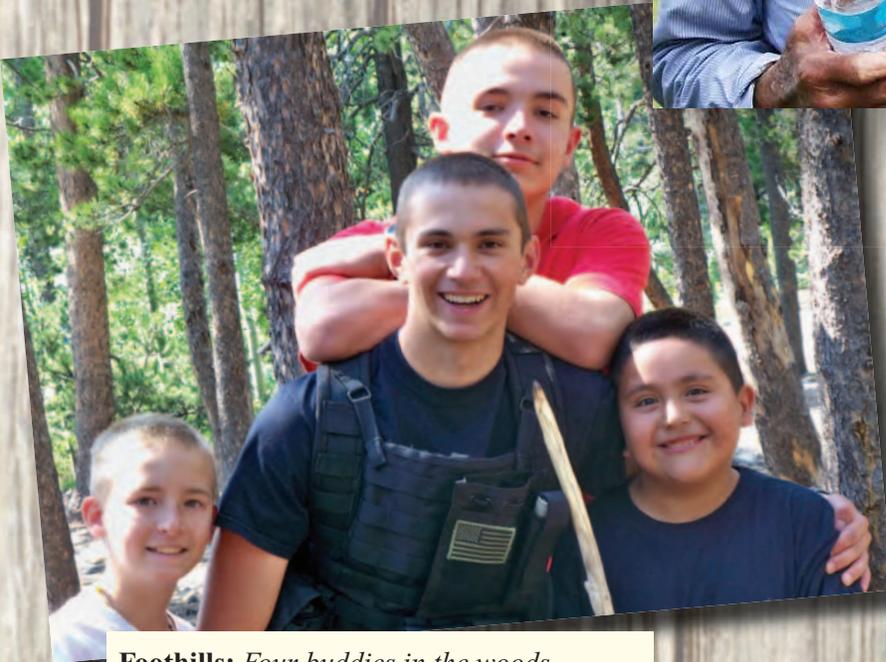
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**Learn About Molly Marine** *Page 25*

# Young Marines SNAP SHOTS



Shenandoah Valley: *With a D-Day veteran.*



Foothills: *Four buddies in the woods.*



Division Young Marines of the Year, celebrating a "Rocky!" moment in Philadelphia.

Northern Kentucky: *Attending a rainy marathon.*



Three Rivers: *With a Congressman and a flag.*

## Coming Attractions...

For the winter issue-- our submission date is **December 1**--our theme will be "**The Young Marines doing great work in our communities nationwide**".

Tell us what your unit has done that was all about helping others in our larger community.

Pick one or two highlights that were focused on community service in some way, and tell us what it felt like to be part of it. What did you enjoy about it the most? What did your community appreciate the most? Don't forget to send us one or two photos. And if a member of your community wants to share a thought about the good work your unit is doing, ask them to send a letter to the editor of *Esprit* at magazine@youngmarines.com.

Note: Here at *Esprit* we're always looking for ways to make the magazine better. Beginning with the *Spring* issue of the magazine we are introducing a change: we will no longer be announcing a special theme for every issue.

Instead, we will print reminders and suggestions of the featured topics that we want to be sure everyone can read about, both regarding special activities and the good work your Young Marines do with your units. For example, we want to be sure that Red Ribbon Week and Veterans Appreciation Week get the same attention in the magazine that we know you give them in your unit's actual activities. Another example, in the current issue, is the way we have devoted a section to what your Young Marines did and learned during their S.P.A.C.E.S. adventures.

As always, all stories about what your unit has been doing are welcome, along with stories revealing the personal insights your Young Marines have gained through their participation in our program. The same basic limits and cautions remain in place as well.

Keep stories short—a good cut-off is 250 words—and remember that we cannot print more than one story about the same activity from the same unit. So if several of your Young Marines want to write about the same awesome experience, ask them to collaborate on a single article. And finally: **Pictures!** Please submit *one to three* photos with each article, ideally candid shots rather than group portraits. Keep those great stories coming!

*Note:* Please review the *Esprit* submission manual in the *Young Marines* library under the *Member's* section for more detailed tips and guidelines for submitting your articles and photos to *Esprit*.

If you have any questions, send an email to: magazine@youngmarines.com



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YM SgtMaj Dakota Richter,

**National Young Marine of the Year**

# Our Nation's History: Hidden in Plain Sight



For those of you who attended the annual Great American History Adventure, you probably have a much better appreciation of our nation's history now that you can see where it all began. Speaking with men and women who dress and speak in the style of the 1700s to reenact our nation's early history gives you a true appreciation of what it might have been like to live back then. And your visits to James-

town and Williamsburg provided snapshots of life going all the way back to the earliest settlers of the 1600s. That adventure was just one of the many S.P.A.C.E.S. programs where history took a front seat. Some of you went out west this summer to participate in the Cattle Drive or the Wild West Adventure, and if you were one of those lucky Young Marines you got a chance to see what life might have been like—including what it felt like all day on a horse—during the pioneer days of the 1800s.

These activities are designed to provide you with an education that you simply cannot get in school. Unfortunately, as important as history is, it is often pushed back or quickly glossed over to make room for other studies. To me, that's a sad commentary. History is important in knowing where we came from and how we got to where we are. Our program's annual visit to Window Rock, AZ, on August 14 provides another real-life look at history. Those who participated this year were able to talk face to face with men who made history as Navajo Code Talkers in World War II.



Many of you enjoyed similar enriching experiences during our annual Veterans Appreciation Week by hearing from veterans who helped make history during the great conflicts in the Pacific and Europe in World War II or in Korea in the early 1950s.

Personally, I think learning history is fun! But you don't have to go on a S.P.A.C.E.S. trip to explore our history. I remember visiting our Young

Marine unit in Mansfield, OH. In the early morning I got up to go for a run, and as I ran through a park I noticed a statue of Johnny Appleseed. It was at that moment in time that I learned that Mansfield, OH, was among the many places where Johnny Appleseed lived. Perhaps this isn't a crowning moment in our history—but everybody has heard of Johnny Appleseed! Now I know more about him.

So, look around. You might be pleasantly surprised to find out that there is something of historical relevance in your community.

Semper fi,

Mike Kessler



*Young Marines from across the country at the National Leadership Symposium in October. Read more about what they accomplished in the next issue of Esprit and stay tuned to the Young Marines News Network to learn more.*



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and our national homepage [www.youngmarines.com](http://www.youngmarines.com)

## Learning About History Through our Heroes

By YM SgtMaj Dakota Richter  
National Young Marine of the Year  
2013-14

Northern Kentucky (KY)

As Young Marines, one of our most honorable points of pride is the work that we perform with, and for, our American veterans of all conflicts and from all branches. On the national level, summer trips such as the Great American History Adventure along the East Coast and the Military Order of the World Wars in our nation's capitol, and annual ceremonies such as the Pearl Harbor parade in Hawaii, the Code Talker Day on the Navajo Reservation, and the Reunion of Honor on the islands of Guam and Iwo Jima grant us invaluable opportunities to truly learn about not only our country's history, but the heroes who shaped it.



YM SgtMaj Dakota Richter

Through experiences like these we find that, by better understanding our veterans, we can better appreciate and serve them.

This sense of service and understanding is most influential and prominent on the unit level. As Young Marines and as youth, we have the ability to instill small-town America values and compassion into every city and community, regardless of its size, through the work that we perform.

Looking at many of our units across the country and in Okinawa, Japan, we find that many of the communities where they are based wholeheartedly rely on the Young Marines to organize and contribute to events for veterans appreciation.

We have the responsibility of positively affecting the lives of those to whom we owe so much, those who fought to create and maintain the United States of America we know and love.

A banner for the 2014 Young Marines Adult Leaders Conference. On the left is a photograph of a large, modern building with a grid of windows. To the right, the text reads: "2014 Young Marines Adult Leaders Conference" in large, stylized letters. Below that, it says "June 4th - 8th" and "HILTON CRYSTAL CITY". At the bottom, it says "AT WASHINGTON REAGAN NATIONAL AIRPORT ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA". The Young Marines logo, featuring a red and white starburst, is on the right side of the banner.

### DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION

## Legalizing Marijuana? What's Really Going On?

By Joe Lusignan,  
Drug Demand Reduction Resource Officer

As a twenty-something year law enforcement officer, and one who's spent a large part of his career working with kids, I'm dismayed that more and more people are drinking the "Marijuana is the answer to all of our prayers" Koolaid.

My local newspaper recently printed an article entitled, "Marijuana Industry Eager to Pay Taxes."

Not surprising, in an era where our legislatures attempt to be creative with funding, some are seriously looking at legalizing marijuana with a goal of taxing it.

This reminds me of an initiative that was run a few years ago, where in an attempt to make alcohol more available to the public, businesses funded an initiative to take the sale of alcohol out of the hands of the state, which had been running the liquor stores, and allow the warehouse-style and large grocery stores to sell it.

The initiative promoted exorbitant taxes on the alcohol, and thus would help alleviate the state of some of its financial woes and even put more law enforcement officers on the street.

I voted against it. As a School Resource Officer, I knew there was already an abundance of alcohol finding its way into the hands of juveniles. Why make it even easier for them?

A few years later...the state is still full of financial woes, there was no influx of officers on the street, and the neighboring states, which do not tax their alcohol, or at least not as heavily, are now visited frequently by residents of our state who do not like paying taxes.

So now the marijuana industry is dangling the "tax us" carrot before our legislatures as another ruse to get marijuana legalized.

(Continued)

## Legalizing Marijuana?

(Continued) So, here was the plan for our state: The state would legalize marijuana, monitor its distribution process, mandate that the THC level would be a max of 3 percent, and slap some tax on it, and as a result, we would put more cops on the street, give money to assist those who suffer from substance abuse--and all our problems would be solved.

Out of 40 or so counties in the state, the initiative passed in only 10 of them, but within those 10 live the bulk of the population. Another problem here: if people who wanted to buy marijuana could still buy it from other (illegal) sources, at a higher THC level, for less money, and without paying taxes, how much money do you think would actually go into the state coffers?

Medical marijuana is already legal in our state, and all that legalization did was to give a green light (no pun intended)

*Marijuana is still a dangerous drug that seriously affects the learning ability of our youth.*

to more people to start growing it. The truth is, marijuana does not cure anything. It can assist in relieving some forms of pain, and also encourages appetite.

But there is already an FDA- approved marijuana-derived medication on the market that does those things, called Marinol. But it's not good enough for many people...because it doesn't get you high.

Marijuana is *still* a dangerous drug that seriously affects the learning ability of our youth. I am against legalizing it, and from experience I can testify that it is not healthy.

But if people still want to make it legal, at least they should be honest. It's not for medical reasons, it's not for enlightenment, it's darn sure not to solve budgetary problems. It's because they want to *get stoned*.

And as with so many other recent detrimental decisions that adults have made, our kids are going to pay the consequences.

## MAIL BAG •

### Dear Esprit,

I really enjoy learning about map reading and compass navigation, and also learning how to cope with bullying and peer pressure at school and in my neighborhood. The Eagle Young Marines has helped me a lot. I've really enjoyed the new things I'm learning and friends I see each week-end.



I'm glad I was put in the Young Marines program. Thank you to my mom and my unit.

**YM Pvt Ricardo Perez**  
**Eagle (CA)**

### Dear Esprit,

Growing up in a medical foster home for the last 12 years of my life has made a dramatic impact on how I view community service. In August, the Young Marines of Miami Dade participated in a community Back-to-School Bash, where we distributed over 4,500 backpacks filled with school supplies to school-age youths in foster care and relative care. MSgt Omarie Forbes scheduled this project with the Foster Parent Association of West Palm Beach County.

I was also able to run a DDR table

for the day at this event with the help of registered adult leaders and Young Marines of both our Miami Dade unit and the Young Marines of Palm Beaches. This project was very dear to my heart and I am very thankful to all my fellow young marines and adult staff who helped. Let's keep giving where our help is needed most in our communities.

**YM Sgt Shamila Forbes**  
**Miami Dade (FL)**

### Dear Esprit,

I would like to take a moment to shine the spotlight on several of our many dedicated and highly motivated Young Marines for their truly amazing efforts in our latest fundraiser, the Gettysburg Young Marines 1st Annual Golf Scramble. YM Cpl Brauning, YM LCpl Emily Turnquist, YM PFC Michael Turnquist, and YM PFC Chris Turnquist worked every day for weeks visiting hundreds of locations and sending out numerous letters to gain sponsorship for this event. Their hard work and gung ho attitude paid off.

The "scramble" was a huge success, raising thousands of dollars for the unit. When the day of the event came the Young Marines teamed up to thank those who came out to play and helped wherever their services were needed. If they are an example of the

future of this program, then I can't wait to see what the future holds.

**Shannon Reddick,**  
**Executive Officer**  
**Gettysburg (PA)**

### Dear Esprit,

This year I met some very important people. Yes, they were in civilian clothes when I met them, but they are retired Marines. When we know our history we can either give a salute or proper greeting to those hard charging Marines, past and present.

In addition to MGySgt Duane Siegmann, USMC (ret), who is the unit commander of our Eagle Young Marines, I met SgtMaj "Iron Mike" Mervosh, USMC (ret). SgtMaj Mervosh is one of the Greatest Generation (in fact an Iwo Jima veteran). Young Marines who receive the Iron Mike Award in recruit training should know that their award is named after this great Marine.

I also met Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, General John M. Paxton, USMC, and SgtMaj Sylvester D. Daniels, who is based at MCRD San Diego/Western Recruiting Region. These are very important people to me, and we should thank them every time we see them.

**YM Pvt. Gronholdt**  
**Eagle (CA)**

## Dear Esprit,

I want to tell you about someone I've met. He is a Young Marine private in the Young Marines of the Palm Beaches of Florida, and he is one of my best friends.

During our free time, YM Pvt Gomes has told me about some of the challenges he had to face to get where he is. He told me he had to face challenges being a recruit, and then taking his first physical fitness test and learning how to do pull-ups and push-ups.

But there was one big thing that motivates me about him. He has a good character and leadership skills and he never gives up. We've had lots of fun times because he is really funny. And he is a big-hearted person because he is always thinking about others and trying to help. He does what a lot of people can't do. That is why we call him "Big Heart With Boots."

**Submitted anonymously by a member of the Palm Beaches Young Marines (FL)**

## Dear Esprit,

About a month ago I was sitting in class as I heard my teacher call my name in an activity she calls, "Terrific Kid." The trait that she chose me for was *Integrity*. She said that I could be trusted and that I was very fair and very honest. I was very excited to tell my parents and brothers about what I have earned. Who I want to thank most are my parents, my fellow Young Marines, the staff members, and Ms. Romaine (our unit commander), be-

cause they have taught me what integrity means and how to use it. I thank them all for their support.

**YM PFC Jacob Bullock  
Eno River (NC)**

## Dear Esprit,

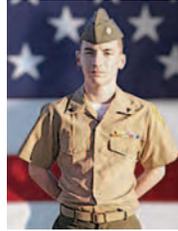
I started attending Kennedy Krieger School in fifth grade. I'm now a senior in high school, and it's been a really good experience. Before I came to the school, I was below grade level on everything, I had low self-esteem, and my behavior was an issue. You see, I have been diagnosed to have Asperger syndrome.

What's neat about my school is that you have people from different walks of life. And being in the Central Maryland Young Marines has helped me to focus on a healthy drug-free life, and I get to meet even more people from all over.

Last fall, I was selected to represent Kennedy Krieger as a student ambassador for the Festival of Trees, a holiday celebration where I got to greet Santa Claus and throw presents to kids. The mayor of New Windsor presented me with an Outstanding Citizen award, and I gave a speech.

I was able to express that I would not have gotten to where I am now without my parents, who showed me the value of respect.

My main goal is to get into the Naval Academy and graduate as a Ma-



rine Corps officer. I don't see how my disability will affect my getting there. I believe that if I put my mind to it and do my best in school, then I will succeed in my goals.

**YM Sgt Bob Nobles  
Central Maryland (MD)**

## Dear Esprit,

"Fred" is a 400-pound bear cub who is a native of Camp La-No-Che, a Boy Scout camp in Florida (where many Young Marines attend summer encampments). This summer, Fred was spotted numerous times throughout the week I was there, in various places around camp. Fred has been known to raid a campsite for something as simple as a Tootsie Roll left out somewhere.

Although Fred is a friendly name, bears are still very dangerous, especially with a sense of smell like Fred's. Every Young Marine at camp was told about Fred and how to avoid him.

The staff collected all our candy and snacks and put them where, hopefully, Fred the Bear wouldn't smell them. We also cleaned up our campsites of any trash to avoid attracting Fred.

Lastly, we were told that if we encountered Fred we had to stay calm and slowly back away without looking into Fred's eyes or scaring him. We've only heard of Fred sightings but I'm glad we haven't run into him.

**YM Cpl Heath Coy  
Palm Beaches (FL)**

## Where Are They Going? Where Are They Now?

**YM GySgt Oscar Pinate** of the Miami Dade (FL) Young Marines has lived in the United States for just seven years. He wrote *Esprit* recently to announce that he has just taken the Oath of Allegiance and become a citizen as well.



It has been a great journey for him, with many obstacles to overcome since he first arrived here at the age of eight. "I am proud and thankful to be an American," he writes. "I know what it means to have no freedoms and to have no rights; I come from a country where there is a

dictatorship in place and a regime that does not care for human rights. I will never forget what this country has done for me. Being a United States citizen also allows me to become an officer in our armed forces, and with that, I plan on giving back to this great nation by becoming a leader of Marines in the future."

**Spencer Moreno**, formally of the Temecula Valley Young Marines, the Douglas County Young Marines, and most recently the Mountain View Young Marines, graduated from MCRD San Diego as a PFC in the United States Marine Corps on May 24, 2013. He is currently in his MOS training at Camp



*PFC Spencer Moreno, USMC, with proud mom Brenda McNulty.*

Lejeune. PFC Moreno is following in the footsteps of his grandfathers, his father, and his two older siblings by joining the military.

# AUGUST 14, 2013: NAVAJO CODE TALKER DAY

Every year since 2006, Young Marines from across the country gather on August 14 in Window Rock, AZ, to honor the Navajo Code Talkers of World War II. (See box for historical background).

This year the Young Marines' theme for the event was "Teaching Today's Youth about Yesterday's Heroes."

More than 100 Young Marines arrived, representing 17 units, to spend three days participating and learning. Twenty-four veteran Code Talkers were there this year, and many of them spent time talking with our youths. The Young Marines assisted in the festivities as escorts to these very special veterans. They also helped with set-up and take-down and, again enjoying an unusual honor, marched in the Navajo Nation Parade. The Navajo Nation put on a cultural class especially for the Young Marines, and the Young Marines presented gifts to the Code Talkers and their wives.



## A Brief History

During the early months of World War II, Japanese intelligence experts broke every code the U.S. forces devised. This enabled them to sabotage messages and ambush allied troops with alarming ease.

Although our codes were encrypted, they were all based on English. Then a man named Philip Johnston, the son of a missionary to the Navajos, suggested to the U.S. military that they develop a code based on the Navajo language, which was unwritten and was then spoken by fewer than 30 non-Navajos in the world.

The military took up the idea, and by the end of the war more than 420 Navajos had joined the Marine Corps as Code Talkers.

Once they were on the frontlines they protected the code by memorizing it and never writing it down. During the first two days of the Battle of Iwo Jima, Code Talkers transmitted 800 messages--with no mistakes.

Their faithful efforts were critical to victories not only there but in the battles of Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Saipan, and Okinawa.



*Southeast County Young Marines with one of the Navajo Code Talkers.*

"I have always been interested in the war's history. I also have a second cousin who is a Navajo. The Navajo Code Talker Day was the perfect opportunity for me to explore not only part of my own family history but also a rare opportunity to meet the few Code Talkers that remain."

*– YM PFC Carson Hague, Douglas County Young Marines*

"It was a privilege to educate the Young Marines about the role of the Navajo Code Talkers and give them the opportunity to meet these living heroes."

*-- Michael Smith, Navajo Code Talker Day Coordinator  
and son of Navajo Code Talker Samuel Smith*

# Adopted Into a Family of Code Talkers at Window Rock

By YM Pvt Keira Base  
Southeast County (CA)

This year, the Temecula Valley Young Marines made their first trip to Window Rock, AZ, to participate in Navajo Code Talker Day. We took 23 Young Marines and joined others from units all across the country.

My experience there was life changing. I was assigned to be the event coordinator by Ms. Brenda McNulty, to take photographs throughout the day, and I saw a gentleman walking with a very large picture of a Navajo Code Talker. He let me take a picture of him, and when I asked him if the picture he carried was of his grandfather he said that it was of his father, George Smith.

He told me that his name was Irvin Smith, and that his father, George, had been 17 and his uncle Albert just 15 when they both lied about their age and joined the Marine Corps during the war. They both became Code Talkers, and they were both on their way to the Pacific Theater when the well-known tragedy of the Sullivan brothers happened. (All five brothers were killed when their ship was torpedoed and sank, so after that the military no longer allowed brothers

to serve in the same units). The Smith brothers were separated and did not see each other again until after the war, when they happened to get on the same bus to go home.

Irvin's father passed away in 2012 at the age of 90, and his uncle passed away this past April at the age of 88. He told me that his family was still in mourning over the loss, and that he had come to Window Rock because they would have been there if they were still alive. He felt like he was honoring them. We talked for a while longer and then he gave me a Marine Corps sticker that his father had given him. When I said I couldn't take it and that he should give it to a family member, Irvin put his hand on my shoulder and told me that I had come here to honor the Code Talkers, including his father and uncle, and that made me family.

I was speechless. I humbly accepted the sticker from Irvin and thanked him. We exchanged contact information and a hug and then continued our day, but I was forever changed.

This is an amazing event and each year more Young Marines travel to Window Rock to participate.



Mr. Irvin Smith, son of a Navajo Code Talker.

## Talking With World War II Veterans

By YM Pvt Keira Base  
Southeast County (CA)

My three sisters and I attended Code Talker Day in Window Rock, AZ, representing our city of Seal Beach, CA, and our unit. Our unit packed up 35 blankets as gifts for the Code Talkers. It was really fun being at the Code Talker Day event and doing all the activities, like cleaning the park, marching in the parade, and hearing the Code Talkers' life stories.

I learned that the Navajo sing the National Anthem in their own language and are very patriotic. My sisters and I took a picture with a Code Talker, too.

One of my most memorable experiences was meeting and talking to Mr. Gene Bell, who is more than 90 years old. He witnessed the raising of the Iwo Jima flag, and he had come to Window Rock to meet the Code Talkers.

I really liked talking to him, especially when he showed us his collection of challenge coins.

This was a good trip and I hope that I can see the Code Talkers again next year.



Keira (left) and Klarisse Base sharing a moment with Mr. Gene Bell, an Iwo Jima veteran.

# DISCOVERING *Our Nation's* HISTORY

## Buffalo Stew Was on the Menu

By YM LCpl Luke Gorlesky  
Capitol City (NC)

I was one of 30 Young Marines from all over the United States who enjoyed a week long SPACES adventure called the Wild West Excursion. It took place in Rapid City and the Black Hills of South Dakota. Four of the highlights were visiting Mt. Rushmore, visiting the Crazy Horse Monument, visiting an 1880 town, and finally going to the Badlands.

When we arrived at Mt. Rushmore, the first thing we did was eat at a restaurant where we had a perfect view of Mt. Rushmore and where they served buffalo stew among other things.



Afterwards we took a hike and watched a short film clip on how Mt. Rushmore was built. We also toured a museum which described the Native Americans' life and their culture. Another highlight was visiting and exploring a town from the 1880s. We felt what it was like to live back then and what people did in their spare time—and we got to dress as cowboys and cowgirls. We also got to “duel” with fake guns too.

Another time, we watched a film clip on the nature of the Badlands, where it felt like you were in the desert although it was very humid. The temperature can get up to 112 degrees!

## Walking in the Footsteps of the Lakota Sioux

By YM LCpl Chase Davis  
Cherry Point (NC)

Our unit's trip to South Dakota this summer was the first trip we had ever made there. It was great getting to meet other Young Marines from other states and really fun learning about the plains and the way people have lived there, including the way the Native Americans lived.

We met a Lakota Sioux chief named Chief Beautiful Bald Eagle, who had been in the U.S. Army during World War II and was a paratrooper. He was shot at three times but survived and is a decorated veteran.

Another thing we got to learn was a hoop dance taught by a Native American dancer. It was fun.

We got to see the set where some of the film, *Dances with Wolves*, was filmed. We built a teepee and we saw the bison or *Tatanka*, which means Bison in the Sioux language, along with many other animals.



*A 100-year-old photo shows three Lakota Sioux brothers--White Lance, Joseph Horn Cloud, and Dewey Beard (left to right)—who survived the 1890 massacre of their tribe members at Wounded Knee.*

The plains and the rolling hills were amazing to wake up to. The Black Hills were even cooler to see along with the Badlands, where a piece of desert land starts (and if it wasn't for that desert the native language might not have been around, because that's where the natives fled for shelter against the U.S. Army).

The last thing that stood out to me was the site of Wounded Knee, the place where 300 Lakota men, women, and children were killed by the U.S. 7th Cavalry in December 1890.

In 1970, a brave group known as the American Indian Movement held their ground there protesting for equal rights.

By far this was the best time I've ever had as a Young Marine. As a young Navajo myself, I have come to appreciate learning all of this, and I hope maybe I can go there again some time in the future.

# A Great Experience in an Unexpected Place



By YM GySgt Matthew O'Brien  
Carroll County (MD)

This summer, my family drove across the country to experience the national and state parks along the way. On our way home we stopped at a little thrift shop in Jackson Hole, WY. I was looking through some garment bags there, and a lady approached me and asked why I needed the bag. I explained to her that I was in the Young Marines program and my needs for the bag. She proceeded to tell me that her uncle, Charles Lindberg--not to be confused with the famous pilot Charles Lindbergh--was a United States Marine and among the men who raised the first flag on Iwo Jima.

She went on to tell me all about him and his family. Cpl. Lindberg also fought on Guadalcanal and in Bougainville. He received many awards, including the Purple Heart.

I later realized that if I was not a part of the Young Marine program I would've never had this great learning experience.

## Time-Travelling to the Colonial Era and World War II

### Shenandoah Valley (VA)

This summer, several of the Young Marines from the Shenandoah Valley unit went on outings with their families that enriched their knowledge of history. YM Pvt Lincoln Day travelled to Bedford, VA, in July for Family Day at the National D-Day Memorial. The



*Lincoln Day at the 1943 Navy recruiting tent in Bedford, VA.*

event provided hands-on activities from the World War II era, including the opportunity to be "recruited into the Navy" -- circa 1943. The experience included a knowledge test to screen for aptitude, completing a draft application, and even a swearing-in ceremony. "The best part of the day was hearing from veterans who fought on D-Day," he later told his unit. "It was interesting to hear the stories from actual people instead of just reading them in books."

Another fortunate Young Marine who picked up some history over the summer was YM Pvt William Harrison, who spent the majority of his family's vacation in historic Williamsburg, VA, learning about the early roots of American military history. "I love history, and I love hands-on stuff where you can actually experience what happened in history," he said. On the trip he learned a lot about the brave citizen-soldiers and the huge part they played in establishing America. "My favorite place in Williamsburg is the magazine," he added. "I spent a lot of time there asking questions about

the weapons available during colonial times, and how they evolved into what the military uses today."



*William Harrison with a colonial soldier.*

## His Own American History Adventure

By YM Cpl Jude Smith  
Capitol City (NC)

I learned more history on the Great American History Adventure than I ever did before. Our first stop was in the Boston area, where we got to see the Salem Witch Museum in Salem, MA, and learned about the witch trials and how scary it was back then because people were killed when they were wrongfully accused. While at Plimoth Plantation, we got to see what life was like in the late 1620's. The two exhibits they had were the Wampanoag home site and the 1627 pilgrim settlement; the last was special to me, because John and Priscilla Alden are in my family tree.

My favorite part of the trip was going all the way to the top of the Empire State Building in New York City, where the view was gorgeous.

The 9/11 Memorial was a very solemn place to visit, because we saw where the twin towers were, the names of the victims who lost their lives there, and the tree that survived the attacks.

When we went to Philadelphia, we saw the place where the Declaration of Independence was first read and bronze life-sized statues that replicated the signing of the Declaration. We went to the Revolutionary War site of Valley Forge. We listened to stories about George Washington's experience, which was cool, and we saw Washington's headquar-

ters there, which was 80 percent original, including the hand railing where Washington's hands were. Later, down in Virginia, we went to Mount Vernon, where Washington lived, and saw the bed where he slept and where he also passed away.

When we went to Gettysburg (PA), we were able to see the battlefield where over 46,000 Americans were killed or injured. We also visited two other civil war battlefields, both in Virginia. Our experience at Pamplin Park, in Petersburg, VA, was really awesome. We fired real muskets, canons, and mortars. It was a real opportunity to feel what it was like to be a Civil War soldier.

Another one of my top places to go to was Arlington National Cemetery, where we saw the 1983 Space Shuttle Challenger memorial, the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns, and John F. Kennedy's gravesite. We also went to the National Archives where original copies of the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, and the Bill of Rights are kept. The best part in DC was seeing the Washington Monument lit up at night even though there was scaffolding covering the entire monument.

I really enjoyed this S.P.A.C.E.S. event where I had the unique chance to discover our nation's history. I hope that whoever goes next year has as much fun as I did.



Jude Smith, with YMOY Dakota Richter.

## Honoring and Learning from the Veterans of World War II

BY YM PFC Jeremy Holtz  
Eagle (CA)

This summer, for the third year our Eagle Young Marines were asked to visit Balboa Park in San Diego to honor the veterans of World War II by marching the color guard at the Veterans Memorial and Museum Center's "Keep '45 Alive" event.

It was nothing short of an eye opening experience as we got to view the museum, which was formed in 1989 to honor and perpetuate the memories of all men and women who have served in our Armed Forces.

Weapons from numerous wars are on display at the museum.

Equipment and gear were also visible on mannequins and in pictures and stories framed to educate the visitors.

We also had the opportunity to speak with World War II veterans, who shared stories



about their time spent serving our country.

One man told us about a time when the Japanese took him to a POW camp for three years.

This was also exciting as it was my first time performing color guard. Thankfully for me, Eagle YM Cpl. Moreno was there to teach me how to maneuver the rifle.

Prior to our return home, we were fed pasta with meatballs and a salad with bread and butter for free--so, if you were among the people who fed us that day, a big *thank-you* to you again.

Many new adventures are coming my way with this unit. The historical exposure, growth and development is most honorable.

## The Turning Point of the Civil War, Recreated Before Their Eyes

By YM Pvt Jacen Lewis  
Gettysburg (PA)

The Gettysburg Young Marines had the opportunity in July to attend the reenactment of the Battle of Gettysburg. This reenactment was special, because it was the 150th anniversary of the battle.

On the first day we were able to get signatures from both reenactors and descendants of those who actually fought there long ago. Our first signature was from the great, great, great grandson of Confederate General George

E. Pickett. Our second signature was from a reenactor playing the role of John Idol, a.k.a. Greastull. We were also able to get a signature from another reenactor, who played the role of Confederate General Henry Heath.

On both days we were able to watch different reenactments. On Saturday we were able to see a cavalry battle, repre-

senting the moment when Confederate General Jeb Stuart arrived on the battlefield. Unfortunately, due to a schedule change we missed the live fire exercise after the battle. On Sunday we were able to see the reenactment of Pickett's Charge.



*A 19th century depiction of General Pickett's charge during the Battle of Gettysburg.*  
(Reprinted with permission courtesy of Adam Cuerden.)

Both of these were exciting because we got to see what happened in history taking place in front of our eyes.

On both days we were also manning a table to help show support for the U.S. troops currently serving. At our table we had postcards and banners for people to sign.

While some of us manned the table others of us walked around letting the visitors know they had the opportunity to go to the table and show support.

We all had a great experience and fun weekend. We are looking forward to the next year.

## Experiences That Change the Way You View the World

By YM MGySgt Alex Loria  
Col Wesley Fox (VA)

This past summer has been very eventful for me. It has helped me discover things about myself that I may never have learned without the Young Marines. First was the SPACES Cattle Drive which was the most life-changing experience of all. It was also an opportunity to strengthen my leadership skills. It sounds strange, but when you're working with an animal (in this case, a horse) that can only understand your body language, it forces you to look at how you communicate without using words. I learned that non-verbal communication is just as important as verbal communication.

The next of my life-changing experiences this summer was not with the Young Marines but a mission trip to Philadelphia. This trip was an eye opener, because although I knew that poverty exists, I had never seen it first hand. I had

the opportunity to speak with and help those less fortunate than myself. In doing so, I became a lot less arrogant about the conditions that some people have to live in and more appreciative of the things that I have. I deeply enjoyed the chance to help those worse off than me.

My third and final experience was the Navajo Code Talkers Day in Arizona with the Young Marines. I had never been to this event before, nor had I heard about the Code Talkers. I learned about this elite group of warriors from our nation's history who often get overlooked in history books. We met and served the veteran Code Talkers while we listened to the stories they told. Their culture was interesting as well.

All in all, my summer was full of outstanding and incredible experiences that I will remember for the rest of my life. I love the Young Marines for the opportunities it offers and I can't wait till next summer.

Stories from the Young Marines' 2013 Summer Programs of Adventures, Challenges, Encampments, and Schools.

## Space Camp – Well Worth a Return Trip!

By YM Cpl Caleb Wetzel  
Capital City (NC)

At Space Camp I enjoyed myself very much. I was there in July and I met new people and made new friends from all over the country. The thing that I really liked was the F/A-18 flight simulation. I learned a lot at Space Camp and if I could go back I would.

There are two reasons why I would want to go back. The first reason is to see the people that I met last year again. Also I would like to meet new people from all over the country again. I got to learn about other people and where they are from.

The second reason I would like to go back is to do the Mach III Aviation Challenge so I can learn more about aviation and use the Mach III flight simulations.



## She Named Her Colt “Sam”

By YM Sgt Brittany Hannah  
Miami-Dade (FL)

This summer I had the opportunity to attend the SPACES adventure in Montana known as the Working Cattle Ranch Experience. After meeting up with 13 other Young Marines from all over the country, we made our way to our home for the next seven days, the Dryhead Ranch. Throughout the week, we didn't just ride horses, we also accomplished things I would never have imagined I would have done in my life. We learned how to herd and brand cattle, how to use a lasso, and



*Brittany Hannah feeds livestock at Dryhead Ranch.*

we each had the chance to train and name a colt (which is a young male horse.) I named my colt Sam.

Every day we also had to feed a calf and do dishes after each meal. At the end of the

week, the ranch staff held a friendly competition so we could test our newly learned skills against each other. In the end, we all came out winners. Not only did we learn some of

the most important things about living a cowboy/ cowgirl lifestyle, but we also learned about ourselves.

I can honestly say that my time in Montana was the experience of a lifetime and the memories we created will be cherished forever. I am extremely thankful that the Young Marines program gave me the opportunity

to participate in this experience that allowed me to learn so much about myself and also allowed me to meet so many incredible individuals!

## Gratitude for Senior Leadership School

By YM Sgt Isaiah Thompson  
Tarrant County (TX)

My long adventure at the Tennessee Regiment had been amazing, and my first year at Junior Leadership School in Tennessee was life changing. But this year, being in Senior Leadership School really sealed the deal.

I met more Young Marines than ever. My instructors were very disciplined and motivational. Words cannot express what my fellow Young Marines and I experienced.

I'd like to say thank you to the staff and adults for helping me realize what my new goals are for my unit.

# Inspired and Motivated by Advanced Leadership School

By YM GySgt Oscar Pinate  
Miami Dade (FL)

This summer's Advanced Leadership School was a great experience. I learned a lot about who I am as a person and what style of leadership best works for me. I also met a great group of young men and women with whom I made bonds that will last a lifetime.

The first week was packed with loads of outstanding activities. We had our physical fitness tests and various leadership classes.

Learning wilderness survival and first aid was very interesting, and gaining insight from the new Recruit Instructor



*Some of the guys goofing for the camera at this year's A.L.S.*

course was very helpful. Mess Night was a fun-filled, relaxing evening with a delicious meal and many laughs.

On the second week, the Senior Lead-

ership School (SLS) students arrived and we were all assigned our billets. I was fortunate enough to teach an SLS class with two other outstanding Young Marine leaders. One of my favorite classes was FiSH! Philosophy, which was taught by the expert scientist who invented the Lay's potato chip product called Baked!

I welcomed how we were treated as leaders and given great amounts of responsibility. Also having the incredible opportunity to inspire and motivate the SLS class was very fulfilling. I am proud and honored to be part of such an outstanding group of leaders, and to have been part of such a memorable experience.

# From Pilgrim Land to the Big Apple and More

By YM SSgt Torie Hill  
Milton Lewis (FL)

This past summer I took a journey down the east coast of the United States. It was with the SPACES program known as the Great American History Adventure. We started in Boston, MA, then went to New York, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., and various sites in Virginia. This trip takes you back in time to when wars raged and when monumental changes took place.

One favorite of mine was a place called Plimoth Plantation. In this village, people reenacted what the early 1600s would've been like when pilgrims inhabited the land. They spoke with accents and literally played the role of pilgrims. And the nearby Wampanoag

village was hosted by real descendants of the Indians of that time. The Wampanoag people spoke to us about the history of their people.

One of the most emotional places we went to was the 9/11 Memorial in New York City, a memorial that will truly touch your heart and make you think about how this tragedy impacted America.

These are only two examples of the ton of opportunities you get to experience on this tour, which also included going to the top of the Empire State Building,

visiting Independence Hall, looking through the National Museum of the Marine Corps, and seeing all the war memorials in Washington.

Not only is this tour about history, it is also about making new friends. You meet kids from all over the United States and get to talk to them about how their units meet, work, and run. The people I met on this trip impacted my life for the better and made me want to work harder to achieve my goals in the program. I highly recommend this trip.



*Walking the paths at historic Plimoth Plantation.*



*At the Iwo Jima Memorial in Washington.*

# Simulated Special Ops at Mach I Aviation Challenge

By YM PFC Conrad McLeod  
Cherry Point (NC)

I was happy that the Young Marines allowed eleven-year-olds to go to Mach I Aviation Challenge this year. I have been in the Young Marines since I was eight, but this was my first SPACES trip.

The school is located at Tranquility Base, in Huntsville, AL. When I first got there I was put into the group named the Mustangs and given my room assignment. We were



Conrad McLeod,  
proud to be at  
Mach I camp.

given linen and had to make our racks. We were introduced to our instructors who gave us the rules we were expected to follow, and we were given call signs by the others in our group. My call sign was "Shrugs."

During my week there we had classes on the different types of aircraft used by the armed forces, learned how to operate the flight simulators, and learned water survival. We did a Navy Seal ops mission. My favorite time was when we did

a team exercise at night. The object was to get objects to two different locations in the dark without being detected. Another fun time was when we did the helicopter crash simulator. It was a helicopter in the water that was sinking and we had to get out of it before it sank.\*

I would encourage other Young Marines to work on getting promoted and meet the other requirements so that they can go to Mach I or to other SPACES trips next summer.

*\*Don't worry, parents: It wasn't a real sinking helicopter. – Editor*

## Learning to Drive Cattle From Ranchers

By YM SgtMaj Alexander Messmer  
Cherry Point (NC)

The Cattle Drive Experience with the Young Marines gave me a whole new insight into how we get our food and where it comes from. We arrived in Billings, checked in, and then we met with the staff of the cattle ranch. It was a neat experience to meet with people who have worked around cattle their whole lives. These people told us about themselves and a little bit of history about the ranch. We then settled in for the night, so that way we could prepare for the coming days.

Within the next few days we learned

about the different parts of our equipment, how to properly use the equipment, and technique. Overall, this was a big experience for us, from waking up and preparing our horse for the day's work to branding cattle. Aside from learning about the ranch and the work that is done on the ranch I met a lot of Young Marines who I bonded with and worked with as a team. These Young Marines were also great people to learn from.

When all is said and done I loved the experience and would do it over again if I could.



Alexander Messmer, riding in on a white horse.

## Meeting an Indian Chief and Panning for Gold

By YM Cpl Nathan Byrd  
Northern Kentucky (KY)

The Wild West Excursion trip I took part in this summer was a great experience. I met many other Young Marines from all across the nation who I am now good friends with. It was a week of exploring the Black Hills of South Dakota, where we went all around, seeing historic trains, awesome views of the mountains and forest, and wildlife.

The state of South Dakota is very majestic, and the landscapes are unique. They go from a flat plains region where ranchers herd their cattle and farmers grow crops to a massive mountainous region where elk and mountain lions are everywhere. One point in the trip that I really enjoyed was meeting a Na-

tive American chief of the Lakota tribe, Chief Bald Eagle. He is 94 years old and a World War II veteran who served as a paratrooper and was one of the first allied men to make it into Normandy. We all thanked this great person for his service and got a picture with him.

We also went to the Crazy Horse Memorial. This memorial is a lot like Mt. Rushmore but much larger. They have been carving the mountain for decades and have only finished the head. All four of the presidents' heads at Mt. Rushmore could fit inside of the Crazy Horse memorial's head!

We also went to the historical town of Deadwood, which has always been famous for its gambling and saloons. Deadwood was also the home of Wild

Bill Hickock, "the fastest gun in the West" (his real name was James Butler Hickok). One other stop was at an actual old west town. This was no replica; there were actual original buildings, dirt roads, and everything you would see in an old western film.

We went inside historical mines from the famous Gold Rush in the West and were able to pan for gold as well. I was even able to collect a few flakes of gold to keep as a souvenir! South Dakota is a great place and this was an awesome trip. This was the first ever Wild West Excursion for Young Marines and I definitely think that other Young Marines should have the opportunity to experience this trip in the future.

# Walking in History's Footsteps—**Not** Boring!

By YM LCpl Jessica Hemenway  
Cherry Point (NC)

When I first heard about the Great American History Adventure, I remembered my history classes and thought it was going to be boring. But after we watched a video from last year's trip, I thought to myself: Sign me up!

When the day finally came, we flew into Boston, MA, and that first day we stayed at the airport until dinner because of all the people flying in from all over. While visiting Boston we saw lots of historic places. At the Bunker Hill Monument we climbed all 294 steps--it was very painful! We also went to the Salem Witch Museum. I am also reading a book about the Salem witch trials, and although the people and the places matched up with what we saw, the stories did not. I guess it is like the game of telephone.

The next stop was New York City. We went up a very fast elevator inside the Empire State Building and we also went to the 9-11 Memorial. I still remember the story about the pear tree there, which represents to some that not all is lost, and to others it stands for our country's resilience.

On to Pennsylvania, where we also stayed for one night. Among other historic sites we saw the house where Betsy Ross lived and sewed our first American flag. We also got to visit her grave.

In Philadelphia we got to see the actual Liberty Bell, which was broken when it first arrived from Europe, but two blacksmiths still learning how to make bells fixed it after many tries. We all ran up the steps of the famous museum to the Rocky Statue too (I almost fell).

When we got to West Virginia and Virginia, we went to Harpers Ferry, and climbed up a bunch of hills and toured old homes. Then in Virginia we stopped off at a Civil War reenactment and joined in. Our group's war cry was HUZDAH! We practiced different war strategies, and that evening, after dinner and dancing, we had an "attack"



*On the bus between historic sites and moments.*

on our campsite--so this time the "North" and the "South" worked together to take down the bandits. This was the most fun and historic too, because this was one of the actual battle fields of the Civil War.

Our last stop was Washington, DC. We went to many memorials and monuments, and met a veteran who had lost his leg. At Arlington Cemetery, we

watched the changing of the guards, which was an amazing ceremony, and later Mr. Kessler gave us a very motivating speech. That evening, we went to the Marine Barracks' 8th and I Sunset Parade, where they had the new mascot Chesty, a bulldog that is very adorable.

This trip has taught me a few things. One is that you can never be too old to learn new things. I am glad that I am in the Young Marines and was privileged to be able to go on this trip. I also learned that this country would not have been the way it is today if everyone who made our history had given up.

## A Feeling of Independence at Aviation Challenge Mach II

By YM LCpl Lathan Whitlow  
Cherry Point (NC)

This summer I had the opportunity to travel to Huntsville, AL, as a Mach II student. On the ride there, my fellow Young Marines that had been there before spoke about their experiences and what they expected this time. I became more excited as they told their stories. We drove the 18 hours and stayed overnight in Asheville each way, which split the drive up.

As a Young Marine lance corporal I was part of Team Falcon, learning how to fly the beautiful F/A-18 Hornet, in simulated combat. My opinion on aviation is, well, easy to say: I love aviation and the Young Marines and

when I got to sit in that simulator it made me so happy, I just loved it.

We also went patrolling, and I was the patrol leader, which gave me new leadership skills on how to lead Young Marines through dangerous situations. I had a sense of leadership inside me too during Seal ops--when we accomplished the mission it felt good. At Area 51, which taught me control and focus, I got to lead my team to victory multiple times.

During the week I saw one of my fellow Junior Leadership School (JLS) graduates and we plan to keep in touch.

The whole week gave me an experience and feeling of independence.



*Concentrating on some challenging aviation tasks.*

# Some Advice from a New A.L.S. Graduate

By YM SSgt Tyler J. Ward  
Lt Alexander Bonnyman (NC)

I recently attended the Advanced Leadership School (ALS).

ALS is the *best* experience I have had in the Young Marines program yet. It's not just another school, it's a life-changing experience that teaches you a lot about yourself.



Its main goal is to turn the top senior Young Marine leaders in the entire country into the best leaders.

Not only will you be attending a school and learning, but you will meet people all across the country. I met four Young Marines from California--and I live in Tennessee. You will also make

some life-long friends there as well.

Lastly, I highly recommend all you Senior Leadership School graduates this year apply for ALS next year. You won't regret it. Also, to all you Junior Leadership School graduates and basic Young Marines, look to the future and think about attending later on in your Young Marine career.



*Team "Gunslinger" with a very big bird behind them.*

## Winning Some Coveted Patches at Aviation Mach III

By YM Sgt Jared McLeod  
Cherry Point (NC)

This summer I went to the Aviation Challenge Mach III camp in Huntsville, AL, on a SPACES trip. At this camp they taught us how to operate the F-18 simulator. They gave us missions to fly. One

of the missions we were given was an air combat operation called Top Gun. I myself was a co-pilot, and my pilot and I came in first place in our team, winning a Top Gun patch. Overall we came in second place for the entire camp.

Going through Mach III was an excit-

ing experience. I enjoyed meeting new people and talking with other Young Marines from other units.

I would recommend to all Young Marines to talk to your unit commander about the SPACES program, particularly Aviation Challenge.

# Summer ACTIVITIES

## Real Food, Real Target Practice, and Real Mosquitoes



By YM PFC Josh Johnston  
Buckley Field (CO)

My trip to Camp Chesty in Bunkie, LA, was supposed to be a 21-hour bus drive. However, our bus broke down, so we had a total of 27 hours on a bus! After arriving, we were greeted with a smack of humidity and mosquitoes! Welcome to Louisiana.

The mornings and evenings at camp were spent posting the colors. It was a great way to start the day and end the

evening. Each morning was spent playing tug 'o war and each evening we earned three hours of free time (very needed!). They cooked all the food by hand—no Meals Ready to Eat—and we got to eat with the Junior Leadership School kids. It was nice to have real food.

Some exciting things we did were shooting airsoft guns and bows and arrows. We shot paper targets with the airsoft guns, and big haystacks with

red X's spraypainted on them were targets for the bows and arrows. We had the privilege to do an obstacle course, too, where we had to hop through hula hoops, then jump over a wooden wall and walk on a red metal bar. Finally, we had to run in a 'C' shape. It was hard for me.

I met a lot of people from around the nation. I was sad to leave Louisiana, but I knew that I would see them next time.



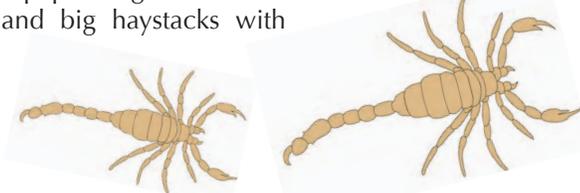
## Was It a Scorpion?

By YM Cpl Kevin Stone and YM SSgt Hanna Witham,  
Desoto (FL)

Our unit went to the 1st Florida Regiment and the 3rd Division Young Marines encampment at Camp La-No-Che in Paisley, FL. All the Young Marines had a blast. There were a lot of activities and events there, and you could earn a lot of ribbons, too.

As soon as we got to the campsites, we had to get into bathing suits and get to swim qualifications. Almost all the Young Marines did swim qualifying so they could go in the pool or down to the lake.

We asked a few Young Marines about their best experiences. YM Pvt Joy from Emerald Coast Young Marines had a blast down at the lake. Water skiing was the most fun for her—and



the longest she stood up was for five minutes! She also went kayaking, covering more than three miles. YM LCpl Nelson went to the rifle range, where he shot three bulls-eyes.

One of us—Hannah Witham—however, had a different experience. On the third night there, she went to lay down in her bunk. She was talking to another Young Marine who suddenly started yelling, “scorpion!!” Now they were both screaming. Hannah jumped out of her bunk, climbed onto another bunk and sat in a ball. Our unit commander, Terry Gregory, and another Young Marine ran into the cabin to see what was going on. They looked around for the scorpion, but all they found was a cockroach, not a scorpion. Hanna stayed up the whole night with a flashlight, looking for bugs and other scary things. But she never saw the scorpion again.

## Busy Is What You Are at This Summer Camp

By YM LCpl Laree Osteen  
Orlando Devil Dogs (FL)

Every summer, Young Marines from all over our area come to summer encampments at Camp La-No-Che in Paisley, FL, to have fun and to make friends with the other units. There are so many activities to do. Also, the volunteers are Boy Scouts, who get along with Young Marines very well.

Busy is what you are during summer camp. There are so many activities to enjoy. There is archery and rifle range so you can learn to shoot a gun or bow and arrow (under supervision, of course). If it's hot, you can go to the lake and canoe, kayak, or take a cruise



on a boat, or just go swimming at the pool. If you are 14 years old or older, you can go rock climbing or on an obstacle course.

You also have a chance to earn ribbons, such as the Communication and Swimming Qualifications ribbons. For community service, you can help with the 8-to -10-year-olds. You help them learn what they need to.

Summer camp is when you get your chance to lead in front of all the other units. Young Marines is like a big family, so if you want to stay busy and have fun, come to summer camp.



## Another Great Experience at Camp La-No-Che

**YM PFC Jadon Kilgore  
Electric City (FL)**

Electric City Young Marines had been eager for weeks to go on their divisional encampment in Paisley, FL. We arrived at Camp La-No-Che on July 28, coming from our hometown of Anderson, SC.

After we arrived, we ate and then hit the racks in miniature house-shaped structures on beds called "cots"--which were surprisingly comfortable. The staff were very cool and fun.

We took the next morning just to figure out how everything worked. After morning chow, every Young Marine got to pick an event to participate in until lunch, and after lunch, they

picked another event. These included riflery, shotgun, archery, swimming, boating, ecology, native trail, rock wall climbing, and more. The activities were very fun. We spent roughly four hours each day doing the activity we chose to do.

The Young Marines also took appropriate, smart safety precautions. Everyone wants to be safe, we used a buddy system. Every time we went somewhere, we had to have a buddy. There were all kinds of wildlife all over the camp, such as owls, lizards, and snakes.

But, as you know, time goes by fast, and then the encampment was already over. It was a great trip and it lasted seven days.



## Wilderness Survival and Big Fun at Camp La-No-Che

**By YM PFC Selwyn Woodley and YM LCpl Kaidan Bolley  
Palm Beaches (FL)**

Our unit had a grand time this summer with other units at Camp La-No-Che for the Third Division Encampment. We earned personal, achievement, service, and academic awards too. The camp had classes on everything from shelter building to fire starting.

One of the activities here is boating. You can take a canoe here or you can sail out. The area has a giant lake and it's lots of fun. There is a dock out in the middle of the lake too, and everyone goes out to the floating dock and jumps off to swim.

We had a chance to participate in Qualified Field skills, learning how to survive in the wilderness to help earn a ribbon needed for promotion. We marched out into the woods from our camps, and then split into teams of four. Each team had to set up camp and spend one night out in the woods. Once we were at the site, each new team started constructing their shelters and gathering firewood. While most teams



made basic shelters, one stood out. It was a tipi-based shelter that was wrapped around a tree. Sadly, not all of us were able to start our own fires. But we did manage a large fire in which we cooked meat and potatoes. The next morning we awoke at 6:00 a.m., took down the shelters, marched back and had a nice large breakfast.

There were lots of other events. For instance, learning to shoot a rifle at the firing range. There was also archery and a C.O.P.E. course, which uses a tower that is real high in the air. It is named the Alpine Tower.

And, after all of these classes, we went on a two-mile hike to an unknown destination. We marched and marched and marched some more.

What we really do at this encampment is become leaders and enjoy ourselves while we are doing it.



## Water-skiing and Knee-boarding, Too

**By YM LCpl Carl Laudan  
LCpl Brian R. Buesing Young Marines (FL)**

All of the Young Marines that went to our 1st Florida Regiment summer camp at Camp La-No-Che had a blast this year. The division includes Young Marines include Florida, Georgia, North and South Carolina, Tennessee and Alabama.

Every morning we woke up, got in formation, marched to the chow hall and did reveille. Then we went to breakfast. At the camp there were events which consisted of biking, swimming, boating, nature hikes, shooting, archery, rock wall climbing, and a C.O.P.E. course and alpine tower.

After dinner we got free time. During free time we got to swim, watch a movie, or play basketball. If you had an adult with you, you could also go fishing.

We were able to go to a lake, where there was canoeing, kayaking and sail-boating. The most entertaining thing to do at the lake was water skiing and knee-boarding. You were able to learn how to ski and knee-board. When you were able to go on the speed boat it was a lot more entertaining. When camp was done we all got new t-shirts that said *1st Florida Regiment Young Marines*.

## Leadership Wisdom From a “Leadership Descent”

By Johnathon Reed, Training Officer  
Tornado Alley (KS)

This past July the 3rd Colorado High Plains Battalion went on a hike called “Pikes Peak Leadership Descent.” Starting from 14,110 feet up, we descended down. The hike tested every one of us--for some it was more mental than physical.

We motivated each other with cadences and built each other up with motivational speeches, although we were from different units, we became the Descent Detachment. Once we hit Barr Camp, the adult staff had leadership discussions with us and also taught us leadership. A recurring theme was *influences*. In order to become a great leader, you have to have positive life influences. These life influences are people such as your friends.



*Resting somewhere on the way down from Pike’s Peak.*

This was eye-opening for me. Unit Commander Weber and his Training Officer, Mr. Reed simply stated, “Show me your friends, and I’ll show you your future.” Do your friends often make poor decisions or good decisions? If you are around people who do not care about school, soon you will not care for school either.

If you want to be successful in life, you have to find people who will push and help you get there. This translated well when we were hiking. We got to a point where every single one of us wanted to get *down* Pikes Peak more than we wanted to take a break from hiking. So we pushed each other and motivated each other to keep hiking. We conquered the mountain because we all had the same goal.



*Hiking at the Pike’s Peak Leadership Descent.*

## Another Grueling, Frightening, and Awesome Week at Parris Island

By YM Cpl Randall Townsend and  
YM Cpl Alexandar Averhart  
Palm Beaches (FL)

For a grueling five days this summer, Young Marines from the Palm Beaches unit toughed it out and held it together at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island.

Our unit really enjoys this trip and many of us look forward to it every year.

When the Young Marines arrived this year, they were met by the *froggy voice* and *horrible stare* of their drill sergeant for the week, United States Marine Corps Drill Instructor Sgt. Miller. All week he would correct their every mistake, no matter how big or small.

They performed team building exercises while also getting a taste of what it is like to be a U.S. Marine recruit. The goal was to strengthen our unit’s mind and body and promote teamwork. They were woken up

early each day and pushed to their limits both mentally and physically.

At the Leadership Course, the Young Marines were split into two groups and tasked with completing a variety of obstacles in twenty minutes.

For some, the hardest part of the trip was mastering the rappel tower--some were afraid of heights and needed a little extra encouragement. They also participated in a leadership readiness course, rifle simulation, and the O course.

At the end of the week, the Young Marines were also able to watch the ceremonial graduation of the actual U.S. Marine recruits as they became United States Marines.

Even though the next trip to Parris Island is a whole year away, everyone is already very excited about going again.

## Platoon Loyalty at the Regimental Leadership Academy

By YM LCpl Sara Laxson  
Western New York (NY)

Early in July I had the opportunity to go to the Tennessee Regimental Leadership Academy. It was a blast, but also definitely the biggest challenge I faced as a Young Marine.

After we settled in, we were put into platoons. I was placed in Junior Leadership School (JLS) 2nd Platoon and we were instructed to get to know our platoon members.

What I had hoped to keep a big secret became very obvious to members of my platoon.

We were commanded to give everyone's name, rank, and where they were from--and I did horribly.

Later that day, after evening chow we were put into squads,

and we had to take turns drilling everyone. Everyone noticed something was wrong, I wasn't doing the commands right. So I broke down and told the squad that I have a hearing loss. That was passed on to my platoon sergeant. He then made sure my whole platoon was aware of my hearing loss and that if and when they called cadence, they needed to speak up.

The rest of the week was much better because whenever we would march somewhere, they'd ask me beforehand if I could hear. JLS really made me regret not wearing my hearing aids, but I'm so thankful for all the support my platoon gave me throughout the week. They truly exhibited the traits of teamwork and leadership.

## Standing Still Was Difficult at His First Unit Overnight

By YM Pvt William Harrison  
Shenandoah Valley (VA)

The day that my school got out for summer, I met up with my unit to go to the Division II Field meet in Maryland. I had just joined the Young Marines in March, so the field meet was my first overnight experience with my unit. I was excited, but also a little nervous because I did not know exactly what to expect. But, once I got there, it was really fun. The two nights went by pretty quickly because there was always something to do.

We competed in a bunch of different events against units from all over Division II. Some were physical challenges, and some were mental challenges, but they all required teamwork. The challenges I participated in were Tug 'O War and sack races.

We also got up early to drill on our last day. The hardest part of the weekend was how long we had to stand at attention sometimes. As I continue in Young Marines, I



am sure I will get used to (and better at) standing attention.

Since I am somewhat new to Young Marines, my favorite part of the weekend was getting to know others better in my unit. I also liked meeting other Young Marines from all over Division II and listening to speakers at the event who were very inspirational.

I cannot wait to do it again next year!

## Youngest in Her Unit to Go to Junior Leadership School

By YM Cpl Micenna Brooks  
Etowah Valley (CA)

On July 6, I was ready to take the challenge of going to my first Junior Leadership School (JLS). At first I was intimidated, because I was going out of my comfort zone. Four Young Marines from my unit were taking a road trip with our executive officer and our unit commander. I was the youngest and also the only female going.

When I got there it was not long until I made a ton of friends. Of course there were classes and PFT. Because of the

*At first I was  
intimidated, because  
I was going out of my  
comfort zone.*

hard work of the Young Marine staff, this JLS was a success. Everyone graduated and we even had time to go to the pool, do team building, make a guidon, and invent ditties--the Young Marine sergeant major would pick whose was

the best, and the winner would get to eat chow first all day the next day. My platoon won that contest twice.

In each platoon there were an average of 30 Young Marines. At least two times a week we would do a morale check, and each time it was different. On Monday we all started to get physically tired, then on Wednesday it got worse and we started to get mentally tired. On our last day, there we were in formation for an hour-long graduation ceremony, but it helped us build up our stamina.

We had a good time at JLS.

## A Well-Earned Academy Experience at Quantico

By YM PFC Anna Boyette  
Eno River (NC)

Recently I attended the 2013 Summer Leadership and Character Development Academy (SLCDA) at Quantico, Virginia. SLCDA is a brand new, week-long summer camp where students from around the country – chosen for their outstanding academics, leadership roles in the community, top physical condition, and good moral character – gather together to spend a week with U.S. Marine reservists to learn about leadership, character development, ethics, teamwork, and the Marine Corps.

We did many exciting things, including learning and practicing drill, taking modified Physical Fitness Tests, and



running through real-life scenarios with actors playing injured and endangered civilians. We also visited nearby sites in Washington, DC, including the U.S. Capitol, the National Holocaust Museum, and HMX-1, the Marine Corps helicopter reserved for transporting the President. We got to see the Sunset Parade at the Two Jima Memorial with the Commandant's Own Drum and Bugle Corps. Back at Quantico Cemetery we spent half a day doing a service project. Many wonderful speakers came to talk to us, including the Commandant of the Marine Corps, a Medal of Honor Recipient, and reservist Marines—both retired and active duty—who are all continually being leaders in their communities.

My week at SLCDA was one of

the best weeks of my life. I thoroughly enjoyed spending time with the other students in my squad and our squad commanders at chow time, too.



Even though this was in no way a recruiting thing, it definitely strengthened my yearning to become a United States Marine.



# YOUNG MARINES HONORING

# ★ VETERANS ★

## THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

## Do You Know Who Samuel Huntington Was?

### Three Rivers (CT)

This past July, members of the Three Rivers Young Marines and Marine Corps League Thames River Detachment assisted in laying a wreath at the tomb of Samuel Huntington. Although Mr. Huntington was not a military veteran, his service to our country during the time of the American Revolution deserves a place of honor.

Mr. Huntington served as governor of Connecticut and was the second president of the Continental Congress, the elected body that

signed the Declaration of Independence and passed laws until our Constitution was written.

Traditionally, a wreath is laid at the grave site of every deceased president beginning with George Washington on or around their birthday. Several years ago, the City of Norwich, CT, the final resting place of Mr. Huntington, began laying a wreath at his gravesite in that same tradition.

*Samuel Huntington, second president of the Continental Congress*



## Springing Into Action for Korean War Veterans

### By YM Cpl Richard Pope Seaford (DE)

I love the Young Marines program. My proudest moment was on July 27th of this year at the 60th anniversary of the Armistice that ended the Korean War.

Our group included eight kids from the Seaford Young Marines and three Young Marines from two other units in our battalion. At the event, we were assigned to a water station right next to the dignitary section. We worked in the hot weather doing everything we could to ensure

none of the attendees was thirsty.

Unfortunately, there were a few elderly people passing out due to the heat. The Young Marines representing Delaware Battalion sprang into action.

One Korean War veteran passed out and YM Cpl Mayfield and I were the first on the scene rendering first aid. The other Young Marines all helped at keeping the crowd back and out of the way and then helped to get the fallen man into a wheel chair. All the Young Marines in our group either helped medics, or

handed out water to try and stop more heat casualties from happening. Looking back, I can honestly say that was the best showing of the Young Marine values I have ever seen.

At the closing of the ceremony, Mr. Tulley, one of our registered adults, pointed out three veterans in wheelchairs trying to get to the buses. We pushed them to the buses and we all agreed they had awesome stories!

## History Through the Eyes of a Korean War Veteran

### By Tammy Williams, Registered Adult Volunteer Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office (JPSO) No. 2 (LA)

The color guard for our unit—the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office Young Marines—was given the honor this summer of presenting colors to a Marine Corps veteran. The color guard consisted of a six-man team with four flags and two rifles. Following our presenting the colors and singing the Young Marines Hymn, the color guard presentation concluded with a Young Marine personally presenting a Marine Corps flag to the veteran, Mr. Carroll T. LeBlanc.

The event was a celebration of this veteran's 80th birthday. Mr. LeBlanc served



in the Marine Corps as a sergeant during the Korean War. We had the opportunity to talk with him and learn some of his experiences. There were so many emotions we felt—honored, happy, and at times sad. But I think “honored” was the best feeling of all.

Events like this are exciting for our Young Marines and at the same time educational. To have the opportunity to learn our nation's history through the eyes and heart of one of our veterans is truly an honor.

*The JPSO color guard front and center.*



## A Heart Warming Tribute at Fort Logan

By YM PFC Nicholas Pelz  
Buckley Field (CO)

Performing the honor guard at Fort Logan Cemetery has been a point of interest for me ever since I entered the Young Marines program. This year I had the chance to participate. Honor guard is a very serious event and it is also very heart moving.

There to honor the ones who served our country, in addition to the families of those who had passed, were the Pa-

triot Guard Riders, Buffalo Soldier Mile High Chapter Motorcycle Club, and my fellow Young Marines and I.

Before the ceremony started, we were each assigned a wreath, each representing a different branch. At the ceremony there were five plaques, each one representing one of the branches. Each of the four Young Marines before me took a turn taking their wreath and placing it in front of each of the plaques, then saluting them and silently marching back to

allow the next Young Marine to go.

After all five of the wreaths were placed, the name of each person being honored on that day was called and a bell was rung for every person that was called. After the last name had been called, the All Veterans Patriot Guard Riflemen prepared for the 21-gun salute, took aim at the sky, and fired.

The ceremony was very heartwarming and I am proud and honored to have participated in the event.

## Down Memory Lane with World War II Veterans

Stacy Anderson,  
Registered Adult Volunteer  
Foothills, CO

From classic cars and planes to Bob Hope and Marilyn Monroe, the World War II Era Ball in Boulder, CO, had it all. This was the third year that the Foothills Young Marines performed an honor guard for this event.

Everyone who attended the ball was transported back to the 1940s through their outfits,



music, dancing, and performances. I'm sure you can imagine how loud it was. Everyone was excited for the show, but as soon as our Young Marines stepped out to present the colors, the crowd fell silent. It was a touching moment to see World War II veterans watching as the color sergeant called out the commands. You could see their approval written on their faces. The next day we received thank-you notes, as well as pictures from multiple media outlets.

*The Foothills color guard at the World War II Era Ball.*

## A Flag for a Fallen Family Member

By YM LCpl Jude Smith  
Capital City (NC)

My fellow Young Marines and I had the privilege of attending a ceremony to present a folded American flag to a family who lost a member in Tuz, Iraq. His name was SSG Eric Steffeney, and he lost his life on February 23, 2005. What we did at the ceremony was to unfold



a packaged flag and then refold it in a ceremonial manner. Then we passed it slowly and respectfully from the lowest rank to the highest rank. Then, YM SgtMaj Cobb passed the flag carefully to the man in charge and he presented it to the family, and they raised the flag on the flagpole that they had planted.

I was so honored to do this ceremony for our fallen hero.

## Marching Beneath the Washington Monument

By YM Sgt Derick Revels  
Fort Meade (MD)

The Young Marines of Fort Meade, led by Unit Commander Cheryl Norris, gained community service hours while marching in the Memorial Day Parade in Washington, D.C.

As an annual event for Fort Meade and Young Marines units all over the East Coast, units again converged on Washington to march in the parade.

This event, seen all over the nation, gives the Young Marines a much-needed break from their normal routine, and our unit has participated in it since 2008.

When we arrived by Metro train at the National Mall where

the parade started, it was early. As the heat started to pick up, we started to sweat heavily in our service uniforms. But as hot as the event was, it was still fun for those who attended.

When the marching started, our Young Marines were posted where they were needed. From signs to feather flags, we were there.

We marched a three-mile route through the middle of Washington, passing the Washington Monument with a moment of silence two-thirds of the way through.

After the parade, Young Marines were able to mingle with other units, making new friends during the time.

## **Proud to Belong to a Bunch of Tough Eggs**

**By YM LCpl Alexander Maxwell  
Orlando Devil Dogs (FL)**

We all know that Veterans Day commemorates the times when soldiers put their life on the line to make sure America is kept safe, though not many people understand the true meaning of Veterans Day.

This year the Orlando Devil Dogs Young Marines was recognized for participating in the Veterans Day Parade. Afterwards, a group of retired military men and women who work with the Sea Cadets (the U.S. Coast Guard's primary youth-serving

volunteer program) also presented both me and YM PFC Gallagher with a gift card for Wal-Mart. I did my best to be modest about receiving the gift.

The Orlando Devil Dogs has also been selected Unit of the Year by the national office of the Young Marines. We have completed 48 hours a year of Drug Demand Reduction (DDR), which helps motivate young children to maintain and live a healthy, drug-free life. It has been said that our unit is a tough egg to crack!

## **Listening to Their Stories While They Are Still With Us**

**By YM Cpl Luke Smith  
Camp Pendleton (CA)**

On Memorial Day, Camp Pendleton Young Marines joined the Solana Beach VFW No. 5431 in honoring and remembering our veterans. We provided a color guard and then listened to both the mayor and guest speaker David Jacinto, who told us about historical events that the members of the VFW branch participated in. It was hard to watch the veterans as they re-

membered their fallen comrades with tears.

I especially enjoyed speaking with the veterans afterwards and hearing their stories of battle. I think it is valuable to listen and remember and re-tell the stories because it won't be long before all of them with their first-hand accounts will be gone. I appreciate the time that I was able to spend with them that morning, and I won't forget the sacrifices that were made for me and my country.

## **A World War II Style Encampment and a Guest Who Was Really There**

**Shenandoah Valley (VA)**

This August, Shenandoah Valley Young Marines participated in "Camp Boondocks," an encampment that this year brought us together with two other nearby units in Northern Virginia: Manassas and Battlefield Young Marines. The camp was set up as a World War II-style reenactment complete with period trucks, tents, and gear.

Camp Boondocks lasted five days, and although they had rain showers on three of those days that didn't stop them from having a great time and engaging in some great training. They also had the privilege of learning from a number of special guests, including Mr. Beverly Sayards, a veteran of the D-Day invasion in World War II. Captain Neil Conner, USMC (ret),

was very active in the entire encampment, leading field studies with the Young Marines and coordinating the reenactment experience that they shared with veterans. Such interactions with veterans are priceless experiences for our Young Marines.



*Raising a real big tent at "Camp Boondocks."*



*Living like a World War II soldier at "Camp Boondocks."*



*D-Day veteran Mr. Beverly Sayards speaks to Shenandoah Valley Young Marines.*

## YOUNG MARINES HONORING WOMEN MARINES

# Molly Marine Gets Some Overdue Recognition

By Marc DeFrancis,  
Esprit Editor

*From time to time, as editor of Esprit I have the privilege of observing special Young Marine events. This summer I was a guest at the National Museum of the Marine Corps for an event honoring women Marines.*

Did you know that women in the United States have been signing up for the Marine Corps since 1918? Many Americans remain unaware of the long history of women in military service to America.

And that is one reason why the Women Marines Association and the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation decided that the entrance to the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, VA, just south of Washington, DC, should feature a bronze statue of "Molly Marine."

The "Molly" nickname was coined during World War II and is also the name of an award given to the top-ranking woman of every female recruit platoon at Parris Island, South Carolina.

Last spring, when it became clear that additional funding would be needed to erect the statue, the board of directors of the Young Marines program elected to

join the two organizations in the effort by making a very generous contribution. In July, the fruit of all these efforts was on display at the public dedication of the museum's Molly Marine statue, which replicates an original erected in New Orleans back in 1943 to encourage women to join the services in the war effort. A second copy stands at the Paris Island, the only recruit depot where women joining the Marine Corps attend boot camp. The new statue will serve a larger purpose: to represent to the whole public the courage and dedication of women Marines past, present, and future.



YMOY Dakota Richter with MajGen Salinas.

This past July, Young Marines from several units in the region were among the 250 people present at the opening ceremonies. They heard moving statements from Marine Corps dignitaries, including Robert Blackman Jr., a retired lieutenant general who

is also president of the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation.

Speaking just after a color guard—of four women Marines—presented the colors, Mr. Blackman recalled how in

the 1970s, while he was stationed in San Diego, his superior officer had told him he'd be fired if a woman were allowed to serve in his color guard. He described the remarkable series of changes that have taken place over the last half-century, to the point where today women Marines can serve side by side. Listening in the audience were women who had served in the Marines 60 years ago as well as many currently serving.

No one got more applause than Major General Angela Salinas, the sixth female to reach the general officer rank in the Corps. Dr. Betty Moseley Brown, associate director of the Veteran Administration's Center for Women and president of the WMA, also brought cheers from the crowd when she let out a hearty "ooh-rah." "We are honored, we are thrilled because we have all earned the eagle, globe and anchor," she said. "We are all Marines."



Photo courtesy, Women Marines Association



Young Marines join Dr. Betty Moseley Brown in a hearty Ooh-rah!

© Cheryl Badorrek Photography

## RECONNECTING WITH ONE OF THE FIRST YOUNG MARINES

By Alice Reed, Unit Commander  
OPSO, LA

The OPSO Young Marines were recently visited by one of the very first Young Marines, a man named Samuel K. Beamon. As we all know, the Young Marines program was established in 1959 in Waterbury, CT. After finishing in the Young Marines, Mr. Beamon enlisted in the Marine Corps in April 1965 on a delayed-entry program. He went on active duty in August 1965, and completed 19 months in Vietnam serving as a helicopter crew chief.

After being honorably discharged from the military service, he worked at Pratt and Whitney aircraft for a year. He then joined the police department in Waterbury, CT, and rose through the ranks to the level of lieutenant. For the last 12 years, he has been in charge of the juvenile division. He retired after 28 years of service.

He still lives in Waterbury, where he was born and raised and where he joined the very first Young Marines unit.

*Mr. Beamon accepts a t-shirt from OPSO.*



## Earning Her Conservation Ribbon and Sharing Her Knowledge

By YM PFC Franchesca Reyes  
Buckley Field (CO)

This summer I learned how important it is to conserve our natural resources and protect our wildlife. I earned the Senator J. H. Chaffee Conservation Ribbon with my unit after spending time at the Plains Conservation Center and I also did other activities elsewhere that helped me better understand conservation.

It was fun building a bird feeder—I spread peanut butter and bird seed all over mine and the birds really loved it! In my rock garden, I was able to collect two rocks (one basalt and one ve-

sicular basalt) that came from 14,000-foot underground. Watching my seeds grow was also cool. I was able to share my experience at Rifle Falls State Park in my essay. But the most exciting experience was teaching children at my church's summer lunch program about conservation. I showed them my conservation binder, rock garden, and leaves, and had them plant peas in paper cups. One of the little boys was so excited when he told me later that his pea had grown into a plant and he had replanted it outside. It made me happy that he and the other kids were still doing the project.

I feel that I'm making a difference in my community as to how people are looking at natural resources and wildlife. My message to the students is to protect plants, animals, and our planet. My family and I recently went camping, and because of the conservation unit I looked deeper at my surroundings and at wildlife in Rocky Mountain National Park.

My family and I are now more aware of how our actions affect our environment. We are trying harder to do our part to reduce, reuse, and recycle to protect our beautiful planet.

## VICTORVILLE: BRINGING A NEW UNIT TO LIFE

By YM SgtMaj Beth Abzun  
Southland (CA)

On various occasions I have come across literature that narrates one of the most intriguing stories of all time: the history of our great nation. I often ponder on the great amount of time that was invested into forming this powerful nation and the dedication that developed our Constitution, which would govern the entire nation for years to come. I had to acknowledge that while all beginnings are rough, they have the ability to produce a pleasant outcome.

During the early months of this year I received a reply from Mr. Okeefe, Excelsior High Desert Young Marines Executive Officer, in which he confirmed the formation of a new Young Marines



*Beth Abzun (at lectern) holds the attention of a new unit's newest grads.*

unit in Victorville, CA. He extended an invitation to me to attend one of the unit's drills. After consulting my unit

commander, I was able to accept the invitation. The summer brought a challenge to the new unit, for its staff had to start from zero. However, despite the obstacles that came from time to time and with God's help, the adult staff were able to witness the first graduating class of the Excelsior High Desert Young Marines in July.

Excitement was present in both the Young Marines and their relatives. Although the unit adult staff expressed their exhaustion, they rejoiced in knowing that their first recruit class had made a transition to the title of Young Marines.

*Editor's note: YM SgtMaj Abzun was the Division 6 Young Marine of the Year for 2011-2012.*

# Building Bonds and Rescue Skills

By YM Cpl Joel Abzun  
Southland (CA)

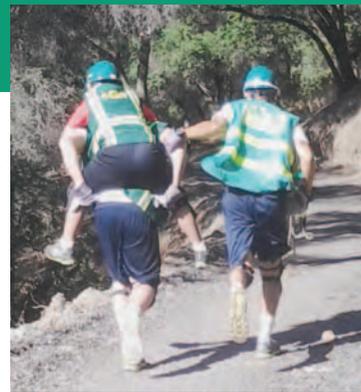
I had the opportunity to participate in the annual Teen Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Camp training, which is cosponsored by the police department and Young Marines here. Since I was the smallest participant in the group, I began to think that I would soon have trouble keeping up with the much older participants. However, I was soon able to become part of a squad that not only helped me throughout the camp, but also motivated me to strive to continue doing my best.

It was during the squad competition that I managed to twist my ankle and I immediately thought I was done for. However, when my teammates saw that I had fallen, the oldest member picked me up and placed me on his back while another member gave him support when he was running. It was hard work, and my squad received the Honor Squad Award for demon-

strating excellent abilities.

This personal story reminded me of the anecdotes of the Native American, Crazy Horse. I read that he used to gather the young ones and taught them the skill of teamwork by having them carry each other for two miles. The purpose of this activity contributed to the bonding among them, proving that all of the young were considered brothers and no one was to be left behind.

I believe that this is what keeps us Americans strong today: unity with one another. This is what it means to be an American and a Young Marine.



*Joel Abzun being carried by another teen in training.*

## Treated Like Movie Stars

By YM GySgt Lucas J. Ward  
Midwest Central (IL)

This past summer, a small detail from the Midwest Central Young Marines was given an outstanding opportunity. We were asked to send our color guard to a competition which was part of the Marine Corps League's annual state convention. One of our fellow Illinois units, the Chicago's Own Young Marines, also competed. They provided an outstanding show and so did we.

We ended up winning by a small margin, but the most important thing was that we were there to show our founders (the Marine Corps League) that we are appreciative of their support and that we are living up to what they made us to be.

This trip also provided a great bonding opportunity for the seven Young

Marines (including me) from my unit that attended. We got the opportunity to learn a lot about each other and really get to know each other better.

We also got the chance to get out and show the world who we are and what we stand for.

Having been in the program for over five years now, I am certain that this has been one of the most inspiring events I have been to thus far. When we completed our routine, veterans came up to us with tears brimming their eyes, telling us just how proud they were to see us out there and how much they appreciated us.

They were so happy with our performance, they invited us to attend their awards dinner that evening and present the colors once again. Needless to say, we couldn't say no.



*During the competition trip, Midwest Central Young Marines also met [statues of] President Lincoln and his family.*

We were treated like movie stars! As we stood waiting for the ceremony to begin, we were approached many times by members who wanted to get pictures of us or with us.

It was a totally amazing experience and it has inspired me all the more to be the best Young Marine I can be, and I hope it has done the same to my counterparts.

## Challenging, Painful, and Fun

By YM LCpl Shane Fowler  
Eno River (NC)

In June, four Young Marines from my unit and I headed down to Parris Island, SC, for a week of Marine Corps experiences. When we first arrived, we were greeted by our drill instructor who demanded that we scream loud before we could enter the squad bay. Once in the squad bay, we were met by other Young Marines from the Milton Lewis and DeSoto units. Throughout the week, we were PT'd and drilled. It was all really

tough but it definitely wasn't as hard as the real recruits are trained.

In addition to the drilling and PT, we got to do other activities that recruits do. We had the chance to do the obstacle course and rappel tower. We got small briefings on things such as the confidence course and the training pool. It was fun but challenging and sometimes painful. My favorite of these things was either the obstacle course or the ISMT (the Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainer).

At the end of the week we got to watch the Marines' family day motivational run, the morning colors ceremony, and a USMC recruit graduation. The coolest part of all that was seeing the precision in how they did the movements and how disciplined they all were. It was pretty cool to know that I watched the country's newest Marines being made. We did some fun, challenging things, and I think at the end of the week all the Young Marines grew in knowledge and leadership traits.

# CELEBRATING WITH A MARINE-AT-HEART

By YM Pvt Loressah J'Lee Clemons  
Shenandoah Valley (VA)

Tony Danner was born with Down Syndrome 30 years ago. Tony could never serve, but he is a Marine at heart. Tony graduated from Loudon Valley High School in June of 2002. Today he works at McDonalds in Purceville, VA, and has participated in the Special Olympics and won several medals.

Tony's uncle, Sergeant Robert Tucker, served in the Corps, including in Vietnam in 1969-70. Sgt Tucker turned to the retired Marines of the Marine Corps League's Eastern Panhandle Detachment #1143 in Martinsburg, WV, to make Tony's birthday extra special. His request was to have a Marine in dress blues attend his birthday celebration.

Tony received a special present by

having three Marines attend his birthday celebration in dress blues. In addition, I attended too, wearing my 'dress greens.'

Although Tony does not wear a Marine Corps regulation uniform, he has the heart of a Marine, and often wears what he considers his uniform.

## • UNITS ON THE GO • UNITS ON THE GO • UNITS ON THE GO •

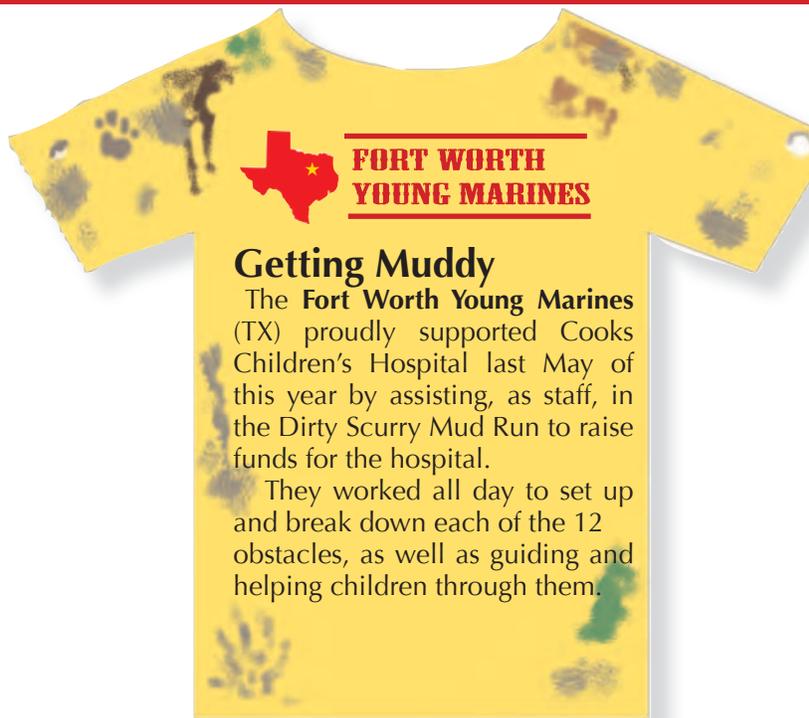
### A New Unit Rocketing Ahead

One of the newest units in the country, **Speedway Young Marines** (IN), reports that their spirits are high as they reach the end of an eventful year. Already they have become one of the largest units in Indiana and have accumulated 1,900 hours of community service. They also took on a town parade by themselves, competed in a Battalion Drill Competition, and raised over \$7,000 to cover their needs.

This past September they assisted in a statewide Veterans Remembrance Day event that garnered them front-page attention in their local newspaper for the third consecutive month.



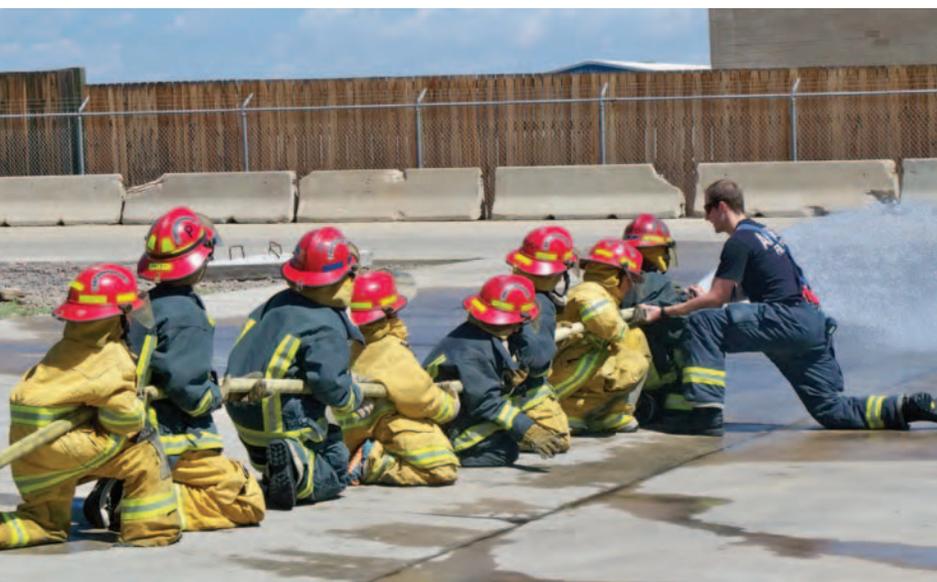
*Speedway: Getting in shape, fast.*



### Getting Muddy

The **Fort Worth Young Marines** (TX) proudly supported Cooks Children's Hospital last May of this year by assisting, as staff, in the Dirty Scurry Mud Run to raise funds for the hospital.

They worked all day to set up and break down each of the 12 obstacles, as well as guiding and helping children through them.



*Foothills: Grappling with firefighting power.*

### Fire, Water, and Shelter

Summer is a great time for shelter building encampments, and that is exactly what the **Foothills Young Marines** (CO) undertook this summer despite the unpredictable Colorado weather. The unit also learned that being a fireman is harder than you might think, after spending a day with the Arvada Fire Department.

They learned how to use a fire extinguisher while wearing heavy protective gear, how to find their way through obstacles in the dark, how to do search and rescue in a burning house, and how to use teamwork to operate a full-power fire hose. That last job was hard work but also a lot of fun. The firefighters said they were very impressed with the leadership skills they observed and enjoyed spending the day teaching such well-disciplined kids that wanted to learn.

# Safety Tip: A Dangerous New Form of “Ecstasy”

By Joseph Bles  
Young Marines Inspector General

This is a safety note about a dangerous new drug. The drug’s street name nowadays is “Molly.” It has been around in other forms for a very long time, at least since 1914 when it was introduced as a diet supplement. Molly is actually the powder or crystalline form of MDMA, more commonly called Ecstasy. Many Young people, believing they are being hip, are now

using Molly at concerts for the exhilarating effect it has and relying on the claim that it is non-addictive.

What does this drug actually do? It increases your body temperature, raises your heart rate, and increases your blood pressure. Those combined effects can become a recipe for heat stroke. As of this writing, two young people have died from using Molly, one in New York and one in Boston, and many more have been hospitalized.

## Drug Abuse: Another Star Extinguished

By Joseph Bles  
Young Marines Inspector General

Once again, we have learned of an individual in the entertainment industry losing his life to drugs. Cory Monteith, who starred in the role of Finn Hudson on the highly popular show *Glee*, was believed to have even greater things

ahead of him as an actor and musician--until he overdosed on a combination of heroin and alcohol.

It just seems that far too many people don’t think about the down side of drug and alcohol abuse. A solution is simple: just look at both sides.

Unfortunately many don’t. That is

where the Young Marines can really make a difference. Our Drug Demand reduction classes are designed to give you the fullest understanding of illegal drugs. So don’t be shy about it, tell your friends outside the program all about what you’ve learned, too.

## Young Marine Graduations and Special Achievements

**Congratulations** to all our new Young Marines and to all those who taught and nurtured them. *Good Work!*

**Unit:** Northern Kentucky  
**Date:** May 25  
**UC:** Lynne Arnold  
**Honor grad:** Reece Keller

**Unit:** Capital City (NC)  
**Date:** June 17  
**UC:** Douglas Smith  
**Honor grad:** Brandon Campbell

**Unit:** Three Rivers (DE)  
**Date:** June 23  
**UC:** Patrick McMahon  
**Honor grad:** Kyle Previti

**Unit:** Cincinnati (OH)  
**Date:** June 27  
**UC:** Victor Fuqua  
**Honor grad:** Caleb Keene

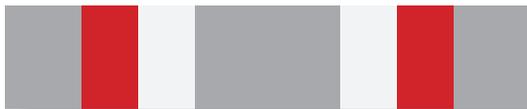
**Unit:** Capital Area (TX)  
**Date:** June 30  
**UC:** Richard Perez  
**Honor grad:** Davin Peterson

**Unit:** Chicago’s Own (IL)  
**Date:** July 27  
**UC:** Leonard Jakubiak  
**Honor grad:** Luis Aguilar

**Unit:** Eagle (CA)  
**Date:** August 10  
**UC:** Duane Siegmann  
**Honor grad:** Jeremy Holtz

**Unit:** Southeast County (CA)  
**UC:** Noreen Mantle  
**Honor grad:** Cal Dornbush

**Unit:** OPSO (LA)  
**Date:** August 13  
**UC:** Jamil Champagne  
**Honor grad:** Nicholas Scott



### Perfect Physical Fitness Test (PFT)

YM Cpl Dustin Garrish	Linn/Benton (OR)
YM Cpl Cody Hartman	Yuma (AZ)
YM 1stSgt Alex Loria	Col Wesley Fox (VA)
YM PFC Davin Peterson	Capital Area (PA)
YM MSgt Joshua Smith	Shenandoah Valley (VA)



Mark McCloskey, Young Marine and Eagle Scout.

### Special Achievement

YM LCpl Mark McCloskey of the East Valley Young Marines (AZ) is also a Boy Scout, and he recently earned the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouts of America, the Eagle Rank. To help earn the rank, a Scout needs to design and complete a community project; the aim is to help young men develop communication, planning and leadership skills. Mark oversaw a project that included renovating four children’s ministry classrooms at New Hope Community Church in Gilbert, AZ. He put in 126 hours on the project himself, while 504 hours was documented for everyone involved. The entire project was fully funded by donations from businesses and individuals. Congratulations to Mark on this hallmark achievement!

# ATTENTION YOUNG MARINES!

# BOOM!

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